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Musket

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL Vol. IL, Issue 1 October 2007

Spring Graffiti Incident Mars School Grounds

By Rivka Barrett

On May 29, 2007, some individual or group spray painted graffiti on the buildings in the Lexington High School quad. The action, which celebrated the "Class of 2007," was dismissed at the time as a silly senior prank, albeit one that the administration disapproved of.

Then two days later, on June 1, new graffiti greeted LHS students. This second act of vandalism was discovered by Lexington police officer Colin Marsetta. He found the main building, science building, math building and a field house trailer splashed with vulgar images, this time specifically criticizing the class of 2007. A different group of vandals appears to have been responsible, since "Class of 2009" was scrawled on the brick walls.

Jim Rettman, a Lexington policeman assigned to the high school, is fairly confident the second act of graffiti was committed by sophomores, members of the Class of 2009, not members of the graduating senior class. The paint colors differed; in the first case, involving the Class of 2007, green or blue paint was used, whereas brown, gold or orange paint appeared in the second case.

Officer Rettman's investigation involved visits to Sherwin Williams and several hardware stores that sell paint, but yielded no leads. The spray paint could have come from anyone's garage, and many students use paint for innocuous reasons such as decorating their skateboards. The police talked to a few students, but found nothing of interest.

Rettman discovered no evidence of anyone trying to break into the school. No windows were broken. Rettman believed that the graffiti was non-gang related and did not indicate antagonism towards Lex-

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Tim Kenny

Despite passage of last spring's override, student bus fees were increased substantially this year.

New Event Policy Surprises Students

By Lilia Kilburn

This year, student organizations will no longer be able to walk into Dean David Lautman's office with a date, a plan, and a list of chaperones and gain easy approval for their event. After consultation with faculty members, the administration recently crafted a new event policy capping annual events at eight, two per class and approximately one per month overall. With the exception of proms and Sophomore Cruise, all events must be held on campus, and they must be organized by or in collaboration with the class councils, which will be considered accountable for all future events.

During the 2006-07 school year, LHS class councils and clubs planned fifteen events ranging from traditional band nights to the Dancing for Darfur fundraiser, far more than any other high school in the area according to Dean Lautman. However, events were canceled last minute due to lack of chaperones. Concerned about the safety of events and conscious of overworking teachers who give their free time to the school activity scene, the administration set limits which Lautman described as "reasonable," adding that faculty response has been "very positive."

The administration is serious about the policy- even the National Honor Society is subject to restrictions. The policy solely targets those events with a high concentration of students and a potential to

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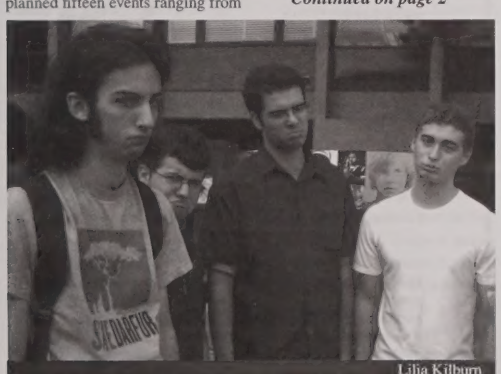

Lilia Kilburn

Seniors Jon Davies, Mark Goodwin, Grant Patch, and Mikel McCavana express dismay over newly announced policy on events.

High School Reaps Benefits of June Override Passage

By Mark Fusunyan

After rejecting a similar measure one year prior, Lexington voters decided to approve last year's Prop 2 tax override proposal after a heated June election. The override gathered 3.98 million in tax revenue, solving a deficit in the Lexington Public Schools budget. As a result, Lexington High School is currently reaping the benefits of increased funding, which maintains and enhances its educational services.

Since 1980, Massachusetts towns have been prevented by Proposition 2 from increasing taxes by more than 2.5% each year. However, Proposition 2 didn't anticipate the growing cost of government, spurred on by high utility and health insurance prices. Lexington Budget Officer Michael Young added that utility and health insurance costs are also "highly unpredictable," wreaking havoc on those who plan yearly budgets.

In order to bypass Proposition 2 1/2, MA towns are forced to ask voter permission on a tax override. If an override passes, taxes are permanently increased to override level. For example, next year, taxes will likely grow 2.5% higher than this year's override tax level. To lower taxes, voters must agree on a tax underride, a measure that Michael Young calls "very uncommon" in Massachusetts's history.

Lexington Public Schools required a tax override because the LPS budget surpassed available revenue by nearly 4 million, after unnecessary costs were "whittled down" according to Budget Officer Michael Young.

Young also said that Lexington Public Schools went to the voters with the override proposal because they felt "uncomfortable cutting down any more services" without informing the public.

Much of this year's override has gone toward adding teaching positions.

As we all know, last year's override proposal for the schools was passed by a tight margin of 54% to 46%. Consequently, taxes have risen at an average of 148$ per household on the basis of the override alone.

Much of this year's override has gone toward adding teaching positions. A total of six new teaching positions have been created at Lexington High School.

According to Principal Mike Jones, the new teaching positions "included a 1.0 increase in social studies, which restored our English-social studies freshman team program; a 0.5 position in physics that restored our honors physics course to six periods per week; a full-time position in our learning skills center, where students can get support in reading, math and science skills, and study skills."

Principal Jones also said some of the new teaching positions relieved "high class sizes" and increased the availability of "high demand courses". For example, there are now four AP AB Calculus classes, compared with three from last year.

Jones added that some of the left-over funds helped to "enhance our materials and supplies budgets," in the hope that we won't have any problems acquiring toner, paper or whiteboard markers.

Aside from creating new teaching positions, the override helped maintain existing teaching positions and continue repairs at Lexington

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NEWS

ADL Controversy Upsets LHS Students

By Deana LaFauci

The controversy began last month when Watertown's town council voted unanimously to pull out of No Place For Hate, an anti-bigotry program led by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). The outrage stemmed from the ADL's refusal to publicly acknowledge the Armenian genocide.

Historians agree that the Ottoman Turks carried out genocide on the Armenian people from 1915 to 1923 in what is now Turkey. Watertown, which has one of the largest Armenian populations in America, felt the refusal of the genocide particularly strongly.

The issue then grew in size, as ADL's New England regional director Andrew H. Tarsy was fired on August 17 for his acknowledgement of the genocide. Tarsy's dismissal caused indignation within both the Armenian-American and Jewish communities

The Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish organization founded in 1913 to combat anti-Semitism, bigotry and extremism, has consistently refrained from public acknowledgement of the Armenian genocide. The league feared that recognizing this genocide would have a negative impact on both Israeli-Turkish relations and the Jewish population in Turkey.

Lexington is one of fifty No Place For Hate communities in Massachusetts. The complexity of the situation is apparent to LHS students. "It's an extremely tricky situation because either way the ADL is trapped.

When they came out and acknowledged the genocide they risked Turkish-Israeli relations. But, if they hadn't characterized the Armenian genocide as such, then the ADL would have been labeled as a hypocritical organization that recognizes one genocide but not the other," said Senior Dina Nash Another senior, Mackenzie Owades, recognized the genocide but also the situation's complexity, saying, "The ADL's desire to look out for the safety of Turkish Jews is definitely valid.."

The ADL bowed to pressure from the Armenian-American and Jewish communities when their National leader Abraham H. Foxman publicly acknowledged the Armenian genocide and rehired Tarsy in late August. "We have never negated but have always described the painful events of 1915-1918 perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire against the Armenians as massacres and atrocities.

On reflection…those actions were indeed tantamount to genocide," Foxman said in a statement via the ADL's official website.

However, the statement went on to say that the organization still does not support the pending resolution in Congress for President Bush to formally recognize the Armenian genocide in his annual message commemorating the loss of lives. "At this point I believe [the ADL] need[s] to take it to the next level by supporting the proposed resolution in Congress; only then will people accept their acknowledgement as sincere," said denior Annie Golovscenko.

The acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide by Congress remains a key goal of the Armenian-American community. Nairi Khachatourian, an active member of LHS' Armenian Club, believed the ADl was being insincere.

"The fact that Foxman said 'tantamount to genocide' when announcing his acceptance of the Armenian Genocide and later wrote a letter apologizing to the president of Turkey shows that he is not sincere about his acceptance of the genocide."

When asked whether she believes Lexington should remain a No Place For Hate town, Kha-

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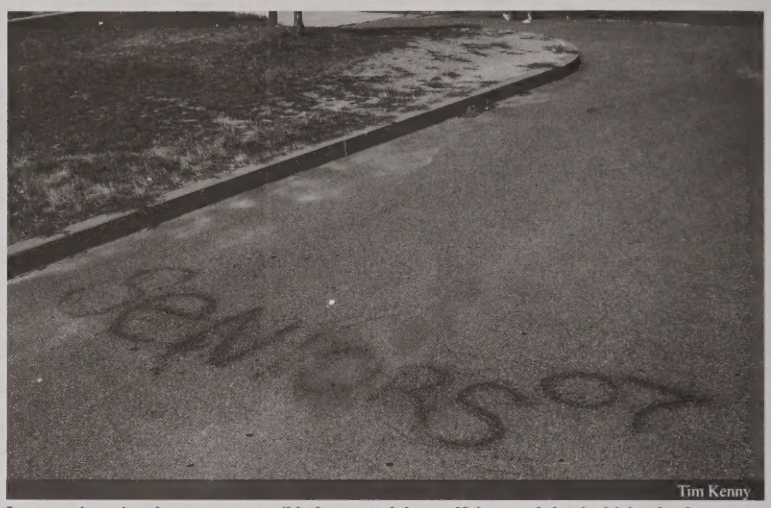

Tim Kenny

Last year's senior class was responsible for part of the graffiti around the the high school.

Spring Graffiti Incident Mars School Grounds

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ington High School. He described the incident as "stupid fun."

After the second incident, LHS custodians sandblasted the buildings clean of both sets of graffiti. A male student sympathized with the janitors in charge of clean-up, saying, "It's just another thing they have to worry about." The process cost $4,000.

When and if the vandals in this case are found, they will be prosecuted, probably under the Massachusetts law dealing with regular graffiti. If the person or people convicted were age 17 or over at the time of the incident, they can be sent to jail for two years. If the perpetrators were age 16 or under, they can still be fined up to $1500, or the cost of the defaced property – whichever is greater.

Those convicted would also be required to pay the cost of the removal of the paint. Finally, and significantly, the law limits the driving license rights of those convicted.

Many people expressed embarrassment and anger about the vandalism. One female senior pointed out, "It [the school] is not our property. Our notebook doodles are private ... but people who don't even go to our school saw the graffiti." Senior David Evans said, "It didn't do anything except make the school look bad, lose the trust of the teachers, and cost a lot of money."

A freshmen teacher complained, "I feel like I'm working under a freeway." A parent of a senior said, "If you're caught, this kind of thing can ruin your entire high school career." English teacher Marshall Dury said, "It has a flavor of disrespect. It wasn't playful, it was crude."

Dean William Cole said, "The pranks were costly, ugly, and about as non-creative and ignorant an act as someone could commit."

In contrast with the universal criticism of last spring's actions, the administration cites more positive episodes from the past. One memorable senior prank from two years ago involved construction of a makeshift pirate ship in the center of the quad. Latin teacher Dr. Michael Fiveash recalled, "Nobody was hurt, school property wasn't damaged, and it was fun for everyone. We all had a good laugh."

Large-scale acts of vandalism are not common in Lexington, but the past several months may have started a different trend.

During the summer at William Diamond Middle School, a student used pliers to pry off a sprinkler head in a bathroom, flooding several classrooms and costing thousands of dollars in damages.

At Fiske Elementary School, two young men threw softball-sized rocks through eight of the windows. And just this fall, a 15-year-old was convicted of vandalism at Bowman Elementary School.

Event Policy Shocks School Student Body

Continued from page 1

get out of hand, while events which draw Lexington families and haven't previously needed chaperones, like the French Club Cabaret and Asian Night, will be unaffected. However, those events which do attract crowds of students, such as dances and band nights, have traditionally been the primary fundraisers for proms and charitable causes. Senior Class Treasurer Molly Siegel expressed her concern, saying "It's going to be a challenge to make prom tickets affordable this year."

There may be certain events, a fifth clause states, "in which the value to the school community supersedes these policies."

The GSA Halloween dance is covered by this clause, but less-established events may struggle to gain similar status.

Quipped Music Club President Grant Patch, "The fallacies in their argument are so blatant-hypocrisy ensues when they ignore the mission statement--hey, that's a pretty sweet rhyme. If we could have band nights, maybe I'd be able to perform a song based around it." It remains to be seen which events will gain coveted spots on this year's social calendar.

Musket

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Authors' Faces Appear in New Wall Mural

By Hannah Galin

Tim Kenny

Faces of famous American authors grace the wall in the stairwell of the Main Building.

Alice Walker, Joyce Carol Oates, Arthur Miller, Kurt Vonnegut, Toni Morrison, and Ernest Hemingway.

Walker won a Pulitzer Prize for The Color Purple, which was published in 1983. Oates has been publishing works since 1964, and she continues to do so, although she uses different pen names such as "Rosamond Smith" and "Lauren Kelly."

Miller, who was married to Marilyn Monroe for 5 years, wrote many theater and radio plays. He is best known for "Death of a Salesman." Vonnegut, who died in April, is known for his dark novels such as Slaughterhouse-Five.

Morrison is a Nobel Prize winning author, and she is best known for her vivid African American characters in works such as The Bluest Song. Hemingway wrote a large number of novels, plays, and poetry. He won a Nobel Prize for lifetime achievements.

These important figures are immortalized on the mural over one of the stairways in the Main building. Over the past few months, their faces have come into being, painted eyes staring at passersby. Their names are in the process of being painted, so that students will have an easier time identifying the people on the mural.

Last school year, Sean Hagan, the art teacher heading the mural project, worked with the previous department head of English, Deborah Perry, who polled the teachers in the English department as to who they wanted on the mural. In the end, all of the people chosen for the mural were American literature authors. Work on the mural started last May, and since then, about 25 students of all grades have contributed in some way or another. 15 kids are the most that have ever been working on the mural at once.

Hagan hopes to form a club that will paint at least one mural per school year. The club members could potentially receive community service for, as Hagan said, "beautifying the school." Hagan plans to ask who would like murals in their buildings, and these murals wouldn't need to be just of people. For instance, the science building could have a mural of rainforests, microscopes, or atoms and neutrons.

However, Hagan is unsure if he wants to paint another mural as large as the one in the main building. Taking a little over two months to complete, the mural will eventually measure 20ft. by 15 ft. Although larger murals are easier for students to paint because they can use larger brushes, smaller murals take less time to complete.

There are actually murals already in other buildings. In the math building there are two – one in the 703 lab and one in the old math help room. They are definitely worth checking out.

Hagan will continue to do polling with teachers, but if students have ideas for future murals, they are welcome to forward them to specific department heads. There will probably be an overlap of ideas. With so many spaces for murals, this form of art creates a greater connection for the students to the school.

If students are interested in helping to complete the mural in the main building, they are more then welcome to come and paint. It is essentially painting by numbers, so anyone, especially old Foundations students, is welcome.

Guster Plays Pavilion

By Rivka Barrett

It was September 8, a gray Saturday evening at the Bank of America Pavilion. Row after row of folding chairs filled the Pavilion, a white-tented dome. People swarm into the arena. Murmurs swept the crowd. Drumbeats reverberated, felt by approaching fans still hundreds of feet away.

We waited impatiently for Guster to come onstage. But first we listened to opening bands like 'Hooray for Earth" and "Bleu." Listeners complained that these acts are unprofessional and in bad taste. The sky turned darker with each passing minute.

At 8:15 pm, the lights dimmed. Guster, four men in their early thirties who met originally as students at Tufts, appeared onstage, and the crowd erupted into earsplitting cheers. For the rest of the concert, no one sat down. The band opened with "The Captain," and yellow and blue spotlights swept through the audience.

Ryan Miller, the lead singer, crooned, "I've come down with something, I'm frozen, tied up, cast in lead." Brian Rosenworcel beat the drums with vigor, while Adam Gardner and Joe Pisapia strummed on their guitars.

The next song, "Demons," was louder and faster, to the rapid beat of banjos. "Come Downstairs and Say Hello" started out slower and somewhat wistful, but quickly picked up speed.

The band played several songs from its recent CD, *Ganging Up on the Sun*, including their hit singles, "Satellite" and "Manifest Destiny." Accompanied by harmonica and guitars, "One Man Wrecking Machine" had a bouncier beat.

Miller and Gardner sang, "I want to pull it apart and put it back together, I want to relive all my adolescent dreams."

Guster closed with the ironic "Happier." Miller and Gardner belted out, "You've wasted every moment of your Saturdays and Sundays, you're wasted from the boredom."

Miller yelled to the audience, "Thanks for all the support from our hometown, Boston, MA." He and his three bandmates walked off.

Later, senior Rebecca Luberoff said, "When Guster took the stage, the crowd never stopped being excited for even a minute." Her sister, senior Anna Luberoff, agreed, "Their energy and enthusiasm were infectious."

The band's music is mainly soothing and nonconfrontational. They play for their fans, not necessarily to establish an image or make big money. In contrast with the True Colors concert held at the same venue in June, featuring acts such as The Dresden Dolls and Cyndi Lauper, Guster is less angry, more mellow. And the young people in the crowd, living in a time of cynicism and anger, love it nevertheless.

Tim Kenny

Images of Lexington's past are currently on display in CVS's windows in the town center.

CVS Photographs: Then and Now

By Mia Karnofsky

Almost everyone has noticed the photographs now adorning the Massachusetts Avenue entrance to the CVS/Pharmacy in the center. "Many people have phoned to praise the historical society" for showing them, says Susan Bennett of the Lexington Historical Society. Bennett also said that a similar display went up at a CVS in Brookline. Because Lexington had photos in the historical society's archives, putting them up in town was a good way to make use of them. She noted that Kevin McGuire, who owns the building that CVS is in, initiated the installation of the pictures. He "thought the building could look more attractive," says Bennett.

The photographs, which date back as far as 1938, arrived after weeks of renovation to reconstruct the back door of the CVS store. A while later, captions (written by S. Levi Doran of the Historical Society) were hung above the pictures. The Town of Lexington has preserved many of the recognizable landmarks present in the historic images. Many buildings depicted in the pictures are the same ones that stand in the center today. Even the current stores that occupy the aged buildings serve similar purposes. Barbershops, cafes, banks, ice cream shoppes, jewelry, and bookstores are all represented in the pictures. Above one 1960s photograph of Mass. Ave., a caption reads, "everything [is] basically the same, save the names of the stores and the models of the cars."

The Flick, formerly called The Lexington, is shown in a photo dated to 1957 based on the movies it advertises on the marquee in familiar big, black letters. Michelson's Shoes is also shown, in a photo from around 1940. It is evident that our town has saved many historical buildings from being torn down, although the photos also show some unavoidable changes. An image of the Savings Bank Building, circa 1940, has three stories, which were ruined in the fire of 1950. A new Citizens Bank is presently in that location. Also, one of the photographs shows a train running through the Depot building on the train tracks that now are the bike path. This change, however, ensures that another building won't replace the Depot, because the people who use the bike path protect it.

Given the Lexington tradition of preserving historical buildings, one can only imagine how much will be recognizable in future displays like the one at CVS today.

FEATURES

Farmers' Market Offers Jobs For Students

By Sophie Isaak

While milling around the Lexington center on hot summer days, you might have noticed a slight hubbub on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Fletcher. The Lexington Farmer's Market has been causing a stir in Lexington Center for quite some time. The Market has been running all summer, rain or shine, from 2-6:30 pm on Tuesdays.

The Farmer's Market was founded by Lexington resident Sonia DeMarta several years ago, after she was inspired by an article in WorldWatch magazine titled, "Where have all the farmers gone?" DeMarta and other volunteers provide the community with fresh produce while supporting local small businesses. The vendors offer a fresh selection of fruits and vegetables, as well as some treats like organic chocolate, maple syrup, and local honey!

However, the Farmer's Market is not just a place to purchase delicious foods and artfully constructed crafts. Part of the mission of the Market is to "educate our community about healthy eating and to maintain a sustainable environment". The Market is run by a group of volunteers who are dedicated to following this mission statement. The emphasis on community invites all who want to help out, learn more, or simply enjoy the great food and revel in the open environment.

Involvement with the Farmer's Market is not just limited to adults; students at Lexington High School have found ways to get involved as well. Inspired by his mother Nancy Page, the head of Arts and Merchandizing for the Market, senior Nick Page spent many summer evenings volunteering at the Market. Page and a few of his friends helped take down tents and load up trucks at the Market's closing every Tuesday. In fact, this volunteerism alone was enough to completely fulfill Page's community service hour requirement. However, prospects for work, not just volunteerism, are also possible at the Market. After volunteering at the Market, LHS alum Shira Leviten, was able to find a job at a local farm that will extend past the summer months.

Tim Kenny

Farmers' Market held in Lexington center every Tuesday until the end of October.

As summer must end, so must the Lexington Farmer's Market. The Market will run until October 23rd.

Although the Market is easily accessible by foot from Lexington High School, Lexpress busses One and Three run for no fee from Depot Square to the site. You have no excuse, so don't wait until next summer; check it out while you can!

Tim Kenny

The high school will benefit from a number of new teachers hired as a result of increased funding.

Override Aids High School

Continued from page 1

continue repairs at Lexington High School. According to the Fiscal Year 2008 Recommended Budget, the override helped contribute to repair efforts in the auditorium as well as in the math and science buildings.

The override also helped contribute to repairs of Lexington High School's ventilation system and fund the installation of more energy efficient lighting and mechanical equipment.

Student opinions about the override's effects were mixed. Karan Mudgal (08'), was fairly happy with the results of the override, feeling that the school's increased funding created a better educational environment. "Due to the override we can afford to pay more teachers so that we can have these classes. Override equals more opportunity."

Similarly, Ethan Ward (08') felt that the override was beneficial to student's learning and teacher's workloads. "All the teachers are teaching more relaxed schedules, which makes it easier to find them during free blocks."

On the other hand, Shachi Phene (08') was weary of the seemingly yearly pattern of hotly contested override votes. "I think the town really needs to decide on what its priorities are and then decide how best to allocate the money we have to achieve them. Having a new override every year isn't helping anyone."

Got Ideas?

Send in your letters, photography, comments, cartoons and whatever

Leave it in the Musket Mailbox in the library or e-mail it to *musket0708@gmail.com*

Potluck Dinner Helps New Students Meet

By Abha Gallewale

Moving is tough. Many of us know how difficult it is being the new kid in school. Sometimes it helps knowing that you're not the only one, and that's exactly what the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) tried to do on Thursday, September 6. Commons II was alive with chatter and mingling from 6-8 PM, as the Annual Newcomers' Potluck began. All LHS students new to Lexington were invited to attend, and were simply encouraged to bring along a salad, drink, or dessert. A representative of the Lexington Newcomers' Club was present to welcome everyone, as were Dr. Michael Jones and the director of the Guidance Department, Lester Eggleston.

Each year, the potluck is a smashing success, as kids from different communities get to know one another. Many times, a group of friends who meet at the potluck remain close throughout the rest of high school.

This year, 50 people attended the potluck. It seemed to be the most successful and diverse year yet, with families moving from Lebanon and India, California and Maine, Arlington and Winchester. However, only ten to fifteen students showed up. Most of the guests at the potluck were parents. When asked about their children, most said "[the kids] just refused to come." These kids missed out on an enjoyable evening when they could have made friends and realized that they were not the only ones who were new at Lexington High School. Those who did attend went home that night smiling, and parents, too, felt hopeful seeing the fairly large turnout.

Towards the end of the potluck, Debora Hoard, the president of the PTSA, spoke to all, urging parents to get involved with their child's school. Dr. Jones gave a short speech welcoming all the newcomers to the high school, and Eggleston talked about the Guidance Department's role at LHS. The first interaction a student has when registering at a new school is with a guidance counselor, so hearing Eggleston's encouraging words was a comforting thing for the new families.

Eggleston informed the families of Club Nexus and Peer Leaders, both clubs that are available to make the students' transition to LHS as smooth as possible. Club Nexus matches up each new student with an upperclassman in the club. Students from Peer Leaders speak each year at Freshman Parents' Night, answering questions about the school and student life, offering useful tips.

A student and former newcomer spoke, encouraging students to get involved in their interests here at the school, by joining clubs, playing sports, or trying out for plays. It was a successful night, and everyone who attended was very happy as they exited the cafeteria.

In future years the administration could take this effort to a greater level by integrating current students into the welcoming process. The potluck is only the first step in helping new students adjust to LHS.

EDITORIALS

The Dispute Over Genocide Definition

ADL: A Second Look

By Nyle Usmani

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL), is currently a point of controversy in the news. With their failure to recognize the Armenian genocide, more and more people have begun to question the ADL's integrity as a group that fights defamation.

While the name implies that the organization stands against hate of all types, a quick skim of their website reveals a different story. In the bottom left column of the website are categories of interest. Among these are "Anti-Semitism", "Religion and Politics", and "UK Academic Boycott of Israel".

Within these categories are the most recent articles pertaining to the subject. Just a few of them include "ADL Survey In Six European Countries Finds Anti-Semitic Attitudes Up: Most Believe Jews More Loyal to Israel Than Home Country", "ADL Survey in Five European Countries Finds Anti-Semitic Attitudes Rising", and "UK Boycotts Against Israel: Facts, Statements & Resources".

A look at the bright red mission statement at the top reveals the group's true focus. It is "To stop the defamation of the Jewish people...to secure justice and fair treatment to all".

It's an odd choice of wording. It starts with a specific focus on assuring the safety of Jews, and then, noting the ellipsis, goes on to say "to secure the justice and fair treatment to all".

Most would argue that the former is inclusive of the latter, meaning that there is nothing wrong with the mission statement, as protecting the safety of the Jewish people is one step closer to securing "justice and fair treatment to all".

But what's interesting is that the website has a whole section dedicated to Israel, and within this section is a whole subsection on "Anti-Israel Action".

Articles here span from everything from Zionist to staunch Zionism. The whole section is finished off with a bolded "Advocating for Israel: What Can You Do to Support Israel" hyperlink. When did fighting Anti-Semitism become synonymous with Zionism?

Prior to WW2 most Jewish communities were neither in support of Israel, nor saw its necessity for the safety of the Jewish people. Were they Anti-Semitic? Even today there are many Jews who aren't Zionists.

It all reveals a very murky side of the ADL. It is caught between two goals, and it perilously plays limbo on both sides of the question.

"Should the ADL be an organization focused on 'Anti-Defamation', or an organization focused on Zionism?"

The heads of the ADL have argued about this question for years, and last month, Abraham Foxman, the head of the ADL, gave his answer.

The world, the Armenians...even the ADL itself was floored when Foxman refused to recognize the Armenian Genocide. The clear motivation for Foxman's position was that Turkey has just recently become "buddy-buddy" with Israel, and recognizing the genocide would strain that alliance.

> ***"The Jewish community shouldn't be the arbiter of [Armenian] history."***
>
> ***Abraham Foxman, Anti-Defamation League***

He stated that "The Jewish community shouldn't be the arbiter of [Armenian] history". I guess Foxman forgot that his organization also vows "to secure justice and fair treatment to all", not just the Jewish history.

Now you have a split organization. You have a New England ADL completely confused on how to deal with Foxman's position. This is most clearly evident in the brave motion made by Andy Tarsy, where he was fired for believing that the ADL should have recognized the genocide. And then you have Foxman and the ADL. Apparently the ADL believes that respect for Armenians is only valuable so long as Israel doesn't get hurt.

However, the recent controversy sewrved to cast the ADL in a less than sympathetic light. We believe that the ADL should stand up for genocide wherever it has or continues to occur. Anything less than such a position puts the ADL in a weaker position.

It is understandable that the ADL's prime obligation is to insure that the Holocaust is not forgotten either among Jews or non-Jews, but to diminish the significance of the Armenian genocide by comparison does a serious disservice to the ADL in all of its efforts. We feel that in the name of humanity the ADL should call attention to injustices everywhere.

Expanding Our Activism

By Noah Karr Kaitin

There are many problems facing our nation and world these days. From the war in Iraq to global climate change, Americans are frequently confronted by serious issues. Lexington High School, sometimes to the dismay of our teachers, has a very vocal student body- some would go so far as to call us activists.

Last year, when the administration made it mandatory for all promgoers to take a trolley to the event, the student body mobilized like I have never seen before. Editorials were written; Facebook groups were created and subsequently overpopulated. The school was in an uproar, one that my sophomore eyes had never seen before.

In perhaps the most visible act, students hung large petitions in the Free Postering Area where anyone could sign their name and indicate their outrage at an administration that had harmed us so deeply. Besides an abundance of self-importance, there was something behind those signs that many people did not see. The signs were put up over a poster for the "Invisible Children" group put together last year. This is a group that was raising money for the child victims of the Ugandan Civil War. Now I ask you, is our activism being put to waste?

In the 1960s and 70s our parents were looking at a nation that was very similar to ours, with a horrific war, unpopular leaders, and a nation struggling to find its identity. However, their generation did not go home and watch 'Pimp My Ride'. They got upset and our country saw an upheaval from its young that had never been seen before and is yet to be recreated. They did not sit by and watch. They participated in necessary change.

Today our country is better off because of the actions of an age group that did not buy their elders' argument that "you're just a kid, and you cannot change anything."

When the news trucks came last year to cover Lexington High's newfound sense of purpose, their lenses did not find a war protest; they were not even looking for a war protest. They were looking for a girl from Lexington with one iPod headphone in her ear and a cell phone in her hand complaining that she couldn't take a limo to her prom. We projected ourselves as what we are so often rumored to be: a bunch of spoiled rich kids.

Please do not think that I am being too judgmental of our student body. I am challenging the students at our high school to do a better job-the job we know we are all capable of.

The result of the founding of the Invisible Children group was that all of a sudden people knew what the situation was in Uganda. This is fantastic, and it should be taken as the first step of many. Lexington High School, I challenge you to think of yourselves not first, but last. The next time you sign a petition, let it not be for your right to ride a limousine, but for the rights of somebody else to improve in the world that has allowed us to prosper.

Schools Should Legalize Graffiti Walls

By Lily Barrett

Last spring, my red ballet flats were ruined. I'm too sentimental to get rid of them, so now they sit in my closet, covered in grime, a reminder of the "Class of 2009" graffiti incident of last June. Around that time, someone covered the outside walls of LHS' academic buildings with obscene images of the male and female anatomy. The administration sand-blasted away the pictures, leaving a dense black powder on the walkways. Hence, the smudges on my shoes.

Teachers and students alike were horrified by the crude drawings. Except ... well, perhaps some people found the images funny. Maybe – although I would disagree with them in this particular case – a few considered them works of art.

Was the graffiti at LHS art or abomination? How should it have been dealt with? Are the kids who did this protected by the First Amendment of free speech, or are there limits to their rights?

If the "Class of 2009" culprits are ever caught, they should face fines, suspension from school, and possibly revocation of their drivers' licenses for one year.

This graffiti served no purpose other than to deface school property with dirty images, cause the administration to pay good money for their removal, and cast the class of 2009 in a negative light.

However, there are times when graffiti serves a real purpose, either political or social, and the First Amendment ought to protect it then.

The word "graffiti" comes from a Greek word, graphein, meaning "to write." Old cave-paintings, a form of graffiti, abound in Spain, France, Germany, and Russia. On Signature Rock, along the Oregon Trail, travelers inscribed their names as proof that they'd made it there alive.

A more recent example was protest graffiti on the Berlin Wall. The side of the wall facing West Berlin was covered in colorful images by the end of the war, whereas the side of the wall facing East Berlin remained sad and blank.

One side mirrored a free, democratic government; the other reflected the oppression of the people by the dictatorial government of East Germany.

Today, we see graffiti on our state highways, on our Facebook profiles, and on city buildings throughout the world, where it serves many purposes. In Iraq, in 2003, opposing parties attempted to spread their political messages by decorating walls in Baghdad. For years, an itinerant artist named "Sidewalk Sam," accompanied by over a thousand children, painted sidewalk murals throughout Boston.

Many graffiti artists, or taggers, as they call themselves, consider their work an art form worthy enough to be shown in art galleries. They see graffiti as a legitimate mode of self-expression.

So far, here in Lexington, the police have failed to catch anyone for last spring's incidents. Graffiti artists are hard to bust unless they are caught in the act. And even then many return to tagging afterwards.

For many, graffiti is seen as a form of protest against authority. Sometimes, the more the establishment sets out to repress graffiti art, the more motivated the artists become.

In some cases the only difference between publicly-supported murals and graffiti is that the painters of murals have received permission to paint them. According to the Boston Globe of June 24, 2007, a crew of graffiti artists in Brockton appealed to the mayor of that city for permission to erect legal graffiti walls around the neighborhoods. There is already one such wall in Beverly.

One Lexington citizen, Margaret Coppe, a member of the Lexington School Committee, recently suggested putting up graffiti walls as a possible way to combat illegal graffiti in Lexington. I agree with her suggestion. Bring on the legal graffiti walls, Lexington!

Currently, chasing down graffitti artists here in town is proving to be futile.

The frenzy's not going to end unless 1) you acknowledge that graffiti's been around for a long time, and 2) you and those who paint learn to coexist in a way that both parties are comfortable with. I suggest that there be a graffiti wall where different forms of expression can be displayed without negative or obscene images.

SPORTS/EDITORIALS

Brian Walsh totes the football in an early season game with Westford Academy.

Football Team Having Up and Down Season

By Najeeb Hossain

The Lexington High football team recently upset heavily favored Reading 17-0 in their first Middlesex League contest. The victory helped to even the Minutemen's record to 2-2 and sent a signal to rest of the league that Lexington will be a team to be reckoned with in league play.

The Reading victory was keyed by the outstanding effort of Running Back J.J. Wentzell and Quarterback John Moscatel, as theteam rolled up over 200 yards rushing in the second half alone.

The win was particularly important in that it showed that the defense, which had been a bit shaky earlier in the season, had begun to jell into a formidable unit. Defensive end Joe Servi and Nose Guard Danny Popiel both played very strong games that day.

In the weeks prior to the Reading game the Minutemen had been involved two hard fought contests, losing an 8-7 heartbreaker to visiting Barnstable just a week after winning in dramatic fashion, 10-7, against Concord-Carlisle. The victory over C-C came on a Marc Patrick 35 yard field goal with just seven seconds remaining.

The football team had opened its season in early September against Westford Academy losing by a lopsided score of 22-7. However, since the Westford game the Lexington coaching staff has been very encouraged by the play of its defensive squad, which has now given up only two touchdowns in the last three games while repeatedly stuffing their opponents on a number of 4th and short yardage situations.

So far the Minuteman offense has been almost solely dependent onrunning the ball, placing great responsibility on the shoulders of running backs Wentzell and Brian Walsh, along with quarterback Moscatel. The offensive line of Seniors Jack Barons, Danny Popiel, Brendan Casey, Taz Tobey, Andy Blackett and tight end Servi have been the key in clearing the way for the team's running attack which has gone over 200 yards in each of the four games it has played. Wentzellground out over 150 yards rushing alone in the Concord-Carlisle game.

Patrick's amazing long range field goals and consistent point after kicks have also been a significant part of the Minutemen's offense. Patrick barely missed a 44 yard boot against Barnstable, a kick that would have won that game for the locals. Another highlight of the

Barnstable game was that it was played under the lights at Dr. Harry Crumb Field, making it the first football game to be played at night in Lexington in twenty-five years.

Against Westford what had started out as a promising day did not fare so well for the Minutemen. A few early season injuries preventing the Minutemen from playing to their potential had played a key factor in the loss.

Westford had opened up the game with a long drive and converted on the 3rd and 9, punching it in for a touchdown. In the 2nd quarter junior Daron Halloway had scored an 82-yard touchdown off a punt return, putting Lexington's first points up on the scoreboard. Westford responded to the touchdown by blocking a punt in the end zone and converting on a 2 point conversion, putting up their final points for the game making it 22 – 6. The third quarter remained scoreless but the Minutemen came into the 4th quarter fired up and ready to play. With less than a minute left junior John Moscatel had scored, and Lexington had pulled off the 2-point conversion with aims of a victory. Senior Kevin Duffy had received a well-placed onside kick by Patrick; however, the effort was not enough. With a late fumble Westford had sealed the game.

Senior Blackett said of Lexington's performance: "We came out flat in the first half, but we definitely came out more energized in the third quarter. We look to carry that intensity that we brought to the second half into Concord;"

They did just that against Concord Carlisle. Opening up the game, Wentzell had a touchdown run making it 7-0 in the first quarter. As the game progressed, C-C had scored twice in the 2nd quarter making it 14 – 7, but the Minutemen did not give up. With a minute left Moscatel scored, and Lexington pulled off the 2-point conversion for the victory.

ADL Controversy at LHS Upsets Students

Continued from page 2

chatourian acknowledged the great things No Place for Hate has done to overcome hatred and discrimination, stating, "The No Place For Hate of New England has the right beliefs and stands for the rights of Armenians and the Armenian genocide."

Adding to this, Khachatourian believes that Lexington should "continue being a community that believes in anti-hatred but not one that is associated with the ADL."

"Even with the ADL's statement, the debate of whether or not to acknowledge the Armenian genocide will go on for a long time." said senior Rebecca Levine.

The current crisis in Darfur widely regarded as genocide, entered into the international consciousness more quickly than the situation in Armenia, and perhaps this is a sign that genocide awareness is improving. However, tensions between the Armenian-American community and the ADL remain.

Boys' Soccer Ranked No. 2

By Simon Lehar

The Lexington boys soccer team so far has lived up to its high ranking in the Boston Globe poll by running its record to 9-1. After dropping a tough game to Stoneham 2-1, the Minutemen booters rallied to two decisive wins against Melrose and Burlington recently.

As of this writing Lexington is currently ranked as the number two team in Eastern Massachusetts.

Lexington had a fairly easy game against an overmatched Burlington squad as they won by a lopsided 5-0 score. Diego Garcia was the top scorer that day with three goals while Goalie Zach Abdu-Glass registered another shutout against the Red Devils.

The Melrose game was a much stiffer contest as the Minutemen were able to edge their opponents by a close 3-2 score. Garcia and Michael Hubbard led the attack in that game, though it was Max Blumenthal's goal which made the score 3-1 - which held up as the margin of victory.

Probably the highlight of the early season was a hard fought 1-0 victory the Minuteman registered against the always challenging Winchester boys. In that game Rami Sleinman scored the only goal of the afternoon.

In the the home opener against Melrose Sleiman put the Minutemen ahead thirty-two minutes into the game on an assist from Danny Elkin. Sleiman put in another goal just six minutes later.

With a 2-0 lead heading into halftime; Eric Beard added the lone second half goal to finish Melrose off by a score of 3-0. The Minutemen held strong defensively with their back four consisting of captain Brendan Magauran, Dan Flaherty, Thomas Ballenthin, and Kristian Driscoll.

Danny Elkin led Lexington over Belmont with two goals in an overwhelming 7-0 win. Diego Garcia, Sam Miake-Lye, Beard, Tonmoy Hussoin and Max Swanson also netted one apiece.

The team went into the season confident despite the loss of several of last year's outstanding players through graduation. But what might have once been a rebuilding year turned into something else altogether as they ran off seven wins from opening day.

The Minutemen graduated a deep and talented senior class from last year, highlighted by midfielder Bryan Longo and seniors Eric Driscoll, Alex Lach, and Andrew Wright. There was some question as to whether this year's team could be as successful with a good amount of youth infused into the starting lineup.

However, these questions have been quickly answered. Now the boys hope to advance beyond the Northern sectional final and perhaps to the States – going beyond what was accomplished last year.

Sports Briefs

By Simon Lehar

The girls field hockey team currently stands in second place in the Middlesex League, just a game behind Reading. The team has been led by Andrea Athens who leads the league in scoring with seven goals and 13 assists. The goal keeping of Nina Riley has also been instrumental in keeping the girls in the race for the championship.

Meanwhile both girls and boys crosss country teams enter the second half of the season undefeated and at the top of their repsective leagues. This is a customary spot for the runners who have been perrenial powers for years. beat Reading 3-0 with contributions

The girls volleyball team has had a great 5-2 start to the season, though they recently fell to a powerful Lynnfield team by a score of 3-0. The team hopes to keep up their strong play in order to qualify for the post-season tournament.

The girls swim team defeated Belmont for the first time in more than 10 years, by a whopping score of 101-64, and remain undefeated in league competition. In a significant competition the girls dropped a close meet, 94-87, to Andover, one of the most highly rated teams in the state. The swimmers are being led by returning state freestyle champion Amy O'Brien, breastroker Nina Liu, and its freestyle and medley relay teams of Pooja Kumar, Priscilla Briggs, O'Brien and Liu in the former, and Rachel Stone, Maria Maradianos, Alison Scott and Maia Taft in the latter.

The golf team suffered its first loss recently to Stoneham, 37.5 to 34.5, but so far has had a strong season thanks to the play of co-captains Lee Smith and Greg Johnson. At present the boys' record stands at 4-1.

In other sports news, the girls soccer team has shown a great deal of promise though they have suffered through some tough matches of late. Their record is currently 6-4-1, which still leaves them in agood position to qualify for the sectional tournament. Outstanding performances have been turned in by high scorer Micaela Cyr, Amanda McKenna, SooMee Yoon, and goalie Jill Carlson.